

Iowa Outdoors
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.gov

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**WATER LEVEL AT LAKE RED ROCK KEPT DOWN FOR
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

DES MOINES - Waterfowl hunters planning to head to Lake Red Rock this fall take note: a construction project at Elk Rock State Park, delayed by the flood of 2008, will require the lake to be kept at conservation pool, possibly into late October.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the water level at Lake Red Rock at conservation pool to allow a nearly \$600,000 boat ramp to be installed. The work should last six to eight weeks, depending upon the weather. The ramp is being paid for by a federal grant that will be lost if the project is not completed by this fall.

The new ramp may be the largest boat ramp the DNR has built in the state. The ramp consists of two sections measuring 36 feet by 45 feet that will be poured on shore then must be pushed into place in the lake. Once work on the boat ramp is completed, the contractor will install some riprap then the lake level will begin to rise.

Flooding not only delayed the ramp construction, but also impacted vegetation and other habitat used by waterfowl and waterfowl hunters. The high water prevented the annual seeding of the mudflats in June that provides vegetation attractive to waterfowl in the fall. Once the ramp project is completed, the DNR plans to raise the lake level four feet instead of the normal two feet to flood additional acres for hunters to access.

“The bottom line is that we stand to loose the \$600,000 for the boat ramp if it is not completed during this fiscal year,” said Dale Garner, chief of the DNR’s wildlife bureau. “And considering the poor habitat conditions at Red Rock, which is the result of this years flooding, our decision quickly favored the boat ramp project. We will do everything we can to complete this project quickly so that reservoir water levels can be raised later this fall.”

Media Contact: Chuck Kakac, DNR district wildlife biologist, at 515-961-0716 or Rick Trine, supervisor for the wildlife bureau’s central district at 641-752-5521.

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IOWA OPEN TO DISABLED DEER HUNTING YOUTH

A new Iowa law will promote many more nonresidents, age 21 years and younger and who are disabled or terminally ill, to hunt deer and turkey in the state.

There are a growing number of national and community organizations that cater to disabled young hunters, such as Make A Wish, Special Youth Challenge and Hope Outdoors. They recruit youngsters across the nation to hunt, fish and enjoy outdoor experiences under carefully planned and volunteer-supported outings. Where costs become obstacles to the youth, the organizations often help them with expenses.

There is no limit to the number of these Iowa licenses, although each person can have only one deer and one turkey license per year. The nonresidents must have a physician’s certificate of disability or terminal illness, the application form for which is available from the DNR at 515-281-5918. These new nonresident licenses cost the same as regular nonresident deer and turkey licenses.

The new law was championed by Rep. Gary Worthan, R-Buena Vista and Sen. David Johnson, R-Osceola after being asked by representatives from Special Youth Challenge (SYC). A director of SYC, Phil Driver of Linn Grove, said his group of more than 100 volunteers last year raised \$25,000 to take about 25 disabled youth on various hunts. Only three of those were nonresidents but he has already had seven nonresidents apply this year.

The new national director of Hope Outdoors is Aaron Volkmar of Boone. Volkmar is in the first year of a three-year effort to develop a state-of-the-art facility in southern Iowa for up to 40 disabled youth hunts per year. Volkmar, who is also owner of TNT The Outdoor Explosion television show that will debut next year, is anxious to involve national celebrities and use his TV show to share the kids’ experiences and promote similar involvement around the country.

For more information, contact: Ross Harrison, ross.harrison@dnr.iowa.gov, 515-281-5973

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PERMANENT BLINDS NO LONGER ALLOWED ON THE IOWA SIDE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOLS 14 AND 15

BRIGHTON, Iowa – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will be enforcing rules in September that ban permanent duck hunting blinds from the Iowa side of the Mississippi River Pools 14 and 15, and require duck decoys be removed from the area between one hour after sunset until midnight of each day.

Permanent duck blinds have been allowed in this area as a long-standing tradition, but it is contrary to Iowa rules that consider much of the Mississippi River to be a public hunting area.

Public hunting areas do not permit blinds and decoys from one hour after sunset until midnight each day. This rule will be enforced on these pools like it is elsewhere, said Don Pfeiffer, supervisor with the DNR's wildlife bureau for southeast Iowa.

Enforcement of the existing rule will coincide with the implementation of no permanent blinds on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge upriver from Princeton, Iowa. The refuge will not permit permanent structures on their land in Pool 14 beginning this fall.

For more information, contact Donald Pfeiffer at 319-694-2430.

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FALL COLOR HOTLINE TO BEGIN ON SEPT. 22

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau will be providing updates to the fall colors hotline beginning September 22. The hotline number (515) 233-4110 is updated weekly with information on what colors are showing in which region.

The brightest displays of color occur with an early fall with bright sunny days and cool nights. These conditions develop red pigments. Cloudy days and warm nights will produce less brilliant colors because chlorophyll breaks down slowly and the red pigments are not formed quickly enough. Dry weather causes a greater buildup of sugars in the leaves, enhancing the production of the red pigments.

Windy, rainy weather causes many leaves to fall prematurely, lessening the intensity of the display. A killing frost will destroy the leaf cells and the coloration process will not function effectively.

Peak fall color occurs in northeast Iowa, on the average, on the weekend closest to October 10. Peak fall color occurs later in the more southern parts of the state, but it all depends on the weather.

The forestry bureau has fall color information on its website <http://www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/fallcolor.html> that gives approximate best viewing times and what colors different trees produce.

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION TO MEET IN BELLEVUE

BELLEVUE – The Natural Resource Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will meet at 8:30 a.m., Sept. 11, at the Bellevue City Hall – Council Chambers, in Bellevue.

Commission members and DNR staff will meet at 12:15 p.m., Sept. 10, at the DNR's LTRM Station, 206 Rose Street, in Bellevue, for a tour of the area. The tour and the commission meeting are open to the public.

Members of the commission are Kim Francisco, Elizabeth Garst, Carol Kramer, Gregory Drees, Janelle Rettig, William Bird and Tammi Kircher. The Director of the DNR is Richard Leopold.

The following is the agenda for the September meeting.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of August 14
- Director's Remarks
- Honey Creek Resort State Park Monthly Update
- Construction Projects
 - Missouri River Fisheries, Monona County -- Shop Building
 - Lake Wapello WMA, Davis County --Silt Retention Structures
 - George Wyth State Park, Blackhawk County -- Campground Electrical System Repairs
- Land Acquisition –
 - Stone State Park, Woodbury County -- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (Sweeney)
- Land Management Agreement – Black Hawk Lake, Sac County -- City of Lake View

- Land Management Agreement - Marlow Ray Wildlife Management Area, Guthrie County - Guthrie County Conservation Board
- Land Management - Farm Management Contract – Brushy Creek State Recreational Area, Webster County -- Sunderman Farm Management Co.
- Land Management - Chapter 17 Barge Fleeting Lease Renewal - Mississippi River, Lee County -- Hendricks River Logistics
- Natural Resource Based Business Opportunities Grant Program
- Water Trails and Low-head Dam Public Hazard Statewide Plan
- Chapter 13—Permits and Easements for Construction and Related Activities on Public Lands and Waters
- Federal Excess Property Program Agreement with Prairie Rivers RC&D
- Concession Contract Amendments-Lake Macbride Pleasant Creek
- Brushy Creek Recreation Trails Advisory Board Appointments
- Severe Weather Protocol in State Parks
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 45, Boat Motor Regulations Lake Icaria
- Final Rule - Chapter 15, General License Regulations
- Agreement with Kalkomey Enterprises for Education Materials
- Waubonsie State Park-Hole in the Hills Youth Camp
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Meeting, October 9, Appanoose County

For more information, contact Kim Rasler at 515-281-7122.